

CLAIMS

1. A computerized method of installing programs on a destination computer, said method comprising:

staging one or more programs on a storage medium of the destination computer;

selecting at least one of the staged programs for installation on the destination

5 computer; and

attaching the selected program to complete the installation thereof on the destination computer.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising detaching any of the programs not selected for installation on the destination computer.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising defining a reference system, said reference system comprising a computer that has an operating system installed thereon and the one or more programs staged thereon, and wherein staging the programs includes copying an image of the reference system to the storage medium of the destination

5 computer.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein defining the reference system includes performing one or more functions on the reference system computer according to a customizable script.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the script is a text-based configuration file.
6. The method of claim 4 wherein the script identifies a location where files associated with the staged programs are to be copied.
7. The method of claim 4 wherein the script defines an order in which the programs are to be staged.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the destination computer has a registry for storing configuration data and wherein staging the programs includes copying files associated with the programs to the storage medium of the destination computer without storing configuration data associated with the programs in the registry.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein attaching the selected programs includes storing configuration data associated with the selected programs in the registry.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein attaching the selected programs includes performing one or more functions on the destination computer according to a customizable script.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein the script is a text-based configuration file.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the script identifies which of the staged programs are to be attached and which of the staged programs are to be detached.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the script defines an order in which the selected programs are to be attached.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein attaching the selected programs includes executing an installation command routine according to the script.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein the programs include either application programs, utility programs, or both.

16. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - executing a first installation utility on a reference computer;
 - installing an operating system on the reference computer using the installation utility;

5 controlling the first installation utility according to a first configuration script to
stage the one or more programs on a storage medium of the reference computer;
defining a reference image of the storage medium of the reference computer
having the operating system installed thereon and the one or more programs staged
thereon; and

10 copying the reference image to the destination computer.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising:

executing a second installation utility on the destination computer; and

controlling the second installation utility according to a second configuration

script to attach the selected program on the destination computer.

18. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1.

19. A system for configuring a computer comprising:

a reference computer including a storage medium, said storage medium of the reference computer having an operating system installed thereon and one or more programs staged thereon, said storage medium of the reference computer defining a 5 reference image;

a destination computer including a storage medium and a processor, said reference image being copied to the storage medium of the destination computer; and

a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions identifying at least one of the staged programs for installation on the destination computer, said 10 processor of the destination computer executing the instructions to attach the identified program to complete the installation thereof on the destination computer.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the computer-readable medium includes computer-executable instructions for detaching any of the programs not selected for installation on the destination computer.

21. The system of claim 19 wherein the computer-readable medium comprises a customizable script.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein the script is a text-based configuration file.

23. The system of claim 21 wherein the script defines an order in which the programs are to be staged on the reference computer.

24. The system of claim 21 wherein the script identifies which of the staged programs are to be attached and which of the staged programs are to be detached.

25. The system of claim 21 wherein the computer-readable medium further comprises an installation command routine and wherein the processor of the destination computer executes the command routine according to the script.

26. The system of claim 19 wherein the destination computer has a registry for storing configuration data and wherein files associated with the staged programs are

copied to the storage medium of the destination computer without storing configuration data associated with the staged programs in the registry.

27. The system of claim 26 wherein the registry of the storage medium of the destination computer stores configuration data associated with the identified program after the identified program has been attached.

28. The system of claim 19 wherein the programs include either application programs, utility programs, or both.

29. The system of claim 19 wherein the computer-readable medium has computer-executable instructions for:

- executing a first installation utility on the reference computer;
- installing the operating system on the reference computer using the installation utility;

- 5 controlling the first installation utility according to a first configuration script to stage the one or more programs on the storage medium of the reference computer;
- defining the reference image of the storage medium of the reference computer having the operating system installed thereon and the one or more programs staged
- 10 thereon; and

copying the reference image to the destination computer.

30. The system of claim 29 wherein the computer readable medium has further computer-executable instructions for:

executing a second installation utility on the destination computer; and
controlling the second installation utility according to a second configuration

5 script to attach the identified program on the destination computer.

31. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure comprising:

a first data field including files associated with a plurality of staged programs, said programs being staged on the computer-readable medium for installation on a
5 destination computer associated with the computer-readable medium; and
a second data field including a configuration script for directing the destination computer in performing one or more functions, said script being customizable for identifying at least one of the staged programs for installation on the destination computer.

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